

Appl. No. 09/842,767

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying the irradiation distribution of a radiation source, comprising the steps of
 - using the radiation source to direct radiation to an essentially planar target surface,wherein,
 - between the radiation source and the target surface, several plates, which are essentially transparent to the radiation and have spaces between them, are placed closer to the radiation source than to the target surface, whereby the reflection and absorption of the transparent plates attenuates the radiation to the desired areas and wherein at least one diffuser is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein the transparent plates are positioned essentially parallel to the target surface.
3. (Cancelled) ~~The method as according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one diffuser is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.~~
4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1 or 2 wherein a flash tube is used as the radiation source and the target surface is a solar panel.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the transparent plates are arranged in a conical stack between the radiation source and the target plane.

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6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transparent plate closest to the radiation source is placed from the source at a distance of 5-20%, of the distance between the source and the target.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for modifying the irradiation distribution of a radiation source, which device comprises:

- a radiation source by means of which radiation can be directed to an essentially planar target surface,

wherein

- between the radiation source and the target surface, several plates, which are essentially transparent to the radiation and have spaces between them, are placed closer to the radiation source than to the target surface, whereby reflection and absorption of the transparent plates attenuates the radiation to the desired areas and wherein at least one diffuser is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 7, wherein the transparent plates are positioned essentially parallel to the target surface.

9. (Cancelled) ~~The device according to claim 7 or 8, wherein at least one diffuser is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.~~

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 7 or 8, wherein a flash tube is used as the radiation source and the target surface is a solar panel.

11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the transparent plates are arranged in a conical stack between the radiation source and the target plane.

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12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the transparent plate closest to the source is placed from the source at a distance of 5-20%, of the distance between the source and the target.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the distance is 10% of the distance between the source and the target.
14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the distance is 10% of the distance between the source and the target.
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transparent plates absorb up to 75% of the total radiation.
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transparent plates absorb between 5 to 40% of the incident radiation.